

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I agree with the above statement in its entirety and believe that such blatant political maneuvering is dangerous to democracy, the foundation of freedom in our great country. It is a clear example of money and influence superseding the person-to-person discourse that should underpin our civil life; the fact that a few executives would order many stations to air a political attack against Kerry is as bad as it would have been for a major theater group to order Michael Moore's latest film in all their local theaters. Please exercise your regulatory power on behalf of us as citizenry and put a stop to this politics-by-decree media. Thank you very much.